

How to Turn Thanksgiving into Thanks-living

Psalm 107:21-22

Introduction: It has been said that talk is cheap. We thank the Lord, and we say Lord, we're so thankful, we're so grateful for all that you've done for us. Well, as we enter this Thanksgiving season and holiday, do you know what we need to do? We need to turn Thanksgiving speech into Thanks-living. That is, (like the psalmist says,) we need learn to offer to God *the sacrifices of thanksgiving*.

1 Peter 2:9-10 tells us the people of God are all priests and because we're priests, we're to offer up spiritual sacrifices. So, this morning I want us to see five spiritual sacrifices, that we can offer all this week and the rest of our lives as unto the Lord.

I. Offer the sacrifice of our person: (Rom. 12:1-2)

A. Notice he talks about a living sacrifice.

1. **The very first sacrifice** that we're going to offer is what we call a living sacrifice, *which is your body*.
2. **Notice what the apostle Paul says**, *I beseech* (or plead with you) Have you ever thought about God praying to you? That's what He's doing, He's saying I beseech you, I plead with us here. The Lord through Paul is beseeching (or pleading) you. "*By the mercies of God,*" (i.e.) *on the basis of what God has done for you*.

- a. Why should I give my body to him? *Because He gave his body for me*.
 - b. All the grief and sorrow in the world cannot repay the debt of love and grace I owe the Lord for His sacrifice for me...
 - c. He wants me to give myself to Him - How must I give myself of him?
 - d. Well, let me suggest three ways as this Thanksgiving season you want to present a living sacrifice to the Lord.
- **First**, you must do it willingly and voluntarily.
 - **Secondly** you must do it completely.

There was the Old Testament animal sacrifice. The New Testament sacrifice is compared to that.

II. Offer the sacrifice of our praise: (Heb. 13:15)

A. The sacrifice of praise to God continually. That is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks unto his name. *This is a wonderful sacrifice!* (Ps 69:30-31)

B. The sacrifice of praise to God continually - Continually! Listen to me.

1. **We do not come to church to praise the Lord.** we're to bring your praise with you to church.
2. **We are to praise the Lord continually.** (Ps. 34:1; 119:108a)

III. Offer of our prayer: (Ps. 141:2)

A. Our prayer is to be like two things.

1. Number one, it is to be like incense, and number two, it is to be like the evening sacrifice. what does this mean?
2. Incense was offered up on the golden altar of incense. This altar declared that entry into the presence of God must be preceded by sacrificial atonement for sin. (Ex 30:1-10; 40:26-27)

B. David's prayer - David, comparing his prayer to the evening sacrifice at the sanctuary, where he called on the LORD to answer him quickly (Ps 31:2).

1. Lifting his hands in prayer (Ps 28:2; 63:4; 134:2).
2. David wanted his prayer to be a sweet aroma to the Lord, (Ex. 30:1-10)
3. In the Book of Revelation incense is appropriately pictured as the prayers of the saints (Rev 5:8; 8:3-4).

IV. Offer our possessions: Heb. 13:16

A. What does this mean anyway? *To distribute, to share, to be generous, to have a liberal spirit, that's what it means to communicate, not just to talk to people.*

B. It means to literally take our material possessions and give them as a spiritual (Phil.4:8)

Today when you want to show your thanksgiving, show it in your giving. Does your giving really show what you think of God? It really does whether you think it or not.

Church, do you know what you ought to do? (Prov. 3:9; Mal. 3:10; 2 Cor. 9:6-8)

we don't just give to the church because the church needs it. We don't give to a cause. We give because "*It's to be a thanksgiving sacrifice to God.*"

V. Offer our purity: (Ps. 51:17) *What would lead David to such a conclusion?*

A. David had sinned –

1. **David's sins didn't just affect his heart, it had also affected his whole person:** his eyes (v. 3), mind (v. 6), ears and bones (v. 8; see 32:3-4; 35:9-10; 38:8), heart and spirit (v. 10), hands (v. 14), and lips (vv. 13-15).
There is such is the high cost of committing and living in sin. (It doesn't just hurt our fellowship with God, it impacts our whole life!)
2. **David wanted the joy of the Lord within him (v. 12)** and the face of the Lord smiling upon him (**10:1; 44:24; 88:14; 104:29**).

B. But David was sad - Where else could David turn but to cry out to the Lord (ps.1:1-2)

C. David sought a pure heart before the Lord – Do you know what it was that led David to a broken spirit? And to seek a pure heart before the Lord?

1. It was not David's badness, it was God's goodness,
2. It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance, not the badness of man. God is so good. (Rom. 2:4)

Oh how we ought to bow down before our great God and just say, "*Oh God, in brokenness and humility, I offer, dear God, through tears of repentance, and ask Lord, purify my heart and life before you, so my sacrifice of Thanksgiving will be acceptable to You and my thanks -living will be proof of my gratitude to You.*"

How can we say thanks? By turning our Thanksgiving into Thanks-living!